



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Baseball Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page \(www.mshsl.org/governance\)](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple level teams at Sub-Varsity levels
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather (heat, cold, lightning & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#). Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

1. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 - A. Individual players may play with independent amateur teams during the high school season, summer and fall, provided they retain their amateur status and do not participate with an all-star team or in an all-star game. The term "all-star game", as here used, shall not apply to a Minnesota team playing intact, against a team from another state, territory, or country.
2. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of the season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

 - A. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.

- B. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- 3. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training, or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season in that sport.
- 4. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208](#) 3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student’s sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another schools game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

<p>Behavior Expectations</p> <p>To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others. • Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations. • Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives. • Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms. • Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions. • Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives. • Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.
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Requirements of Attendees

Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
 - Backpacks and other bags
 - Outside food and drink
 - Cameras and tripods
 - Pets

Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Baseball Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 504](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions Before First Game
- Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS

BASEBALL COURTESY RUNNER/SPEED-UP RULE

- A. At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- B. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- C. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- D. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
- E. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is an illegal substitute.

Exception: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

PITCHER LIMITATION

In any game, the starting pitcher may return to the mound once in relief; however, if the pitcher is not a starter, he may make two relief appearances. This does not modify Rule 3-1-2, National Federation Rule book. If there is a violation of this rule, a full report of the violation must be made to the MSHSL office by the school officials of the school violating the rule. The Board of Directors will determine the responsibility and penalize the responsible school official or officials. **THE GAME MUST BE AUTOMATICALLY FORFEITED.** See [Bylaw 504](#) for full Pitch Count policy.

REGULATION GAME

It is a regulation game if: (a) five full innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four-and-a-fraction terms at bat than the opponent has scored in five terms at bat; or (b) if play has gone beyond five full innings.

In (b), the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team, in their half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

SUSPENDED GAME – REGULAR SEASON AND POST SEASON

A suspended game is any game that is ended **before** it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended. If darkness, rain, or other cause interference's with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

If a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game and must be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game.

GAME ENDING AND 10-RUN RULE

The game ends when the visiting team completes its half of the 7th inning provided their runs are fewer than the number scored by the home team in 6 innings, or, game will end when, after five innings of a 7-inning game, a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

TIES - REGULAR SEASON GAMES

Conferences may adopt this special rule: Each year during regular season play some conference games, after going five full innings or more are called because of rain, darkness, or other cause while the score is tied. According to the rule, this is a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won and lost.

There is, however, the choice, by conference adoption, that a regulation called game with a tie score shall be counted as half-game won and a half-game lost for each team.

OFFICIAL MSHSL ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BASEBALL

MOUTH GUARDS

The use of mouth guards is strongly recommended. Mouth guards that have been cut down or modified in any manner are illegal equipment.

PITCH COUNT

All schools and coaches must abide by these limitations and report their pitch counts as described.

Required Days of Rest	Number of Pitches-varsity	Number of Pitches-lower levels
0	1-30	1-25
1	31-50	26-35
2	51-75	36-60
3	76- 105*	61-85
Daily Max	105	85

- Once the limit is reached a pitcher may finish pitching to that batter
- One day of rest is required if pitcher pitches two straight days.
- Days of rest are measured in calendar days, not 24-hour periods. If a player throws 55 pitches on Monday, they are not able to pitch on either Tuesday or Wednesday but could pitch again anytime on Thursday.
- Only pitches thrown to a batter count toward the pitch count.
- When pitching below the varsity level, those pitch counts apply. The pitcher must meet the rest requirements for that level before pitching at the varsity level. When pitching at the varsity level those pitch count rules apply. The player must then meet those rest requirements before pitching at a lower level.

*The maximum is extended to 115 once Section Playoffs begin.

Penalties:

Violation of Pitch Count Rule:

When a pitcher pitches more than the allotted number of pitches or does not meet the rest requirement they become an ineligible athlete.

1st Offense: Game is forfeited and the head coach is censured.

2nd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited, and the head coach is suspended for one game. 3rd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited, and the head coach is suspended for four games.

Violation of tracking pitches policy:

Failure to record and track pitches as per the following stipulations will result in the following penalties:

1st Offense: Head Coach is reminded.

2nd Offense: Head Coach is censured.

3rd Offense: Head Coach is suspended for one game.

4th Offense: Head Coach is suspended for four games.

Baseball Information – Post Season

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY – [Seeding Consistency](http://www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding) (www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies and League Bylaws to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual and/or team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Section Tournament managers are to secure instructions and rules as set by the Region Committee which administers your section tournament. Under provisions of the MSHSL Constitution, Region Committees have the authority to modify certain provisions, if they so desire. If said Committee has not modified the rules, then State rules are to be followed. Be familiar with all rules and procedures. Official squad size, length of game and all rules contained in the rule book must be followed.

Tournament managers will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of section games.

SECTION TOURNAMENT DOUBLE ELIMINATION FORMAT

Each section shall conduct a double elimination tournament for all final eight teams. 4/5/2012

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

The Official MSHSL Tournament baseball is Wilson A1010 BHS1-SST. Schools/teams are encouraged to use this ball, but you may use a ball of your choice throughout the regular season. The Wilson ball will be used for all games beginning with the State Tournament Quarterfinals.

OFFICIAL SQUAD SIZE

The official squads for tournament participation shall be 20 players, two student managers, and three coaches. (Student Managers cannot be in uniform)

The official squad may include less than 20 players (number who dress for games), but schools may not include additional student managers, coaches, or faculty representatives to the maximum listed above.

One high school coach in uniform is permitted to occupy each coach's box.

Personnel in each dugout shall be limited to the members of the official squad plus one additional person (additional coach or faculty rep.)

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is available on the MSHSL Administrative Web Site under Tournament Information.

REGULATION GAMES IN STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND GAMES – QUARTERFINALS, SEMIFINALS, AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seven (7) innings of play (6.5 innings if the home team is ahead) must be completed unless: 1) the ten-run rule is applied; or 2) extra innings are necessary because of a tie score. If seven innings cannot be completed due to darkness, weather or other causes, the game will be suspended, as defined in the MSHSL Rules and Policy Manual for Baseball.

The Tournament Director, with agreement of the Faculty Representatives from each school (as identified in [Bylaw 409.1](#)), may terminate a regulation game (as identified in the most current NFHS Baseball Rule Book).

SUSPENDED GAMES IN SECTION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

Suspended Game: A suspended game is any game that is ended before it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended.

If darkness, rain, or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

In tournament play, if a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game. A suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game.

NOTE: See definition of Regulation Game under Rule Modifications. Section Tournament Games do not have to go a full 7 innings to be a regulation game.

STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS – ALL CLASSES

A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held prior to the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-5 in their respective tournament, and the remaining teams representing seeds 6-8 will be determined by a blind draw.

AWARDS

Subsection and Section

- First and Second place team trophy and medals (22)

State

- Trophies: First through fourth place teams and consolation winner
- Medals: First through third place teams will each receive 22 medals and three coaches medals
- Certificates: Each participating team will receive 22 official squad and three coaches certificates

Note: It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards no